

SSI In California

People in financial need who are age 65 or older or people of any age (including children) who are blind or have a disability may be eligible for monthly cash payments from the federal government. The payments are called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income, and if the value of the things you own is less than \$2,000 if you are single, or \$3,000 if you are married. We do not count the value of your home. We usually do not count the value of your car. We may not count some other assets. Call us for more information.

Also, you must live in the U.S. or the Northern Mariana Islands **and** be in one of the following groups:

- U.S. citizens or nationals;
- certain American Indians;
- lawful permanent residents with 40 work credits;
- certain noncitizens with a military service connection, and their spouses or unmarried dependent children;
- certain noncitizens lawfully residing in the U.S. who are blind or disabled, or who *were receiving* SSI on August 22, 1996; and
- certain Amerasian immigrants, Cuban/Haitian entrants, refugees, asylees or people whose deportation or removal has been withheld and who may be eligible for seven years after the date their immigration status was granted.

For more information about noncitizen eligibility requirements, ask for the factsheet, *Supplemental Security Income for Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

Also, you must apply for any other money benefits for which you may be eligible.

Even though we run the program, SSI is not the same as Social Security. Money for SSI payments comes from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury, not the Social Security trust funds. The state of California adds money to the federal payment. For your convenience, the state of California and the federal government have agreed to include the amount in the federal payment. You receive one payment during the first week of each month that includes both federal and state money.

The back of this factsheet shows the year 2003 maximum monthly payment amounts for different living arrangements.

Medical Assistance

If you receive SSI, you usually can get medical assistance (Medi-Cal) automatically. A separate Medi-Cal application isn't necessary. If you have questions about Medi-Cal, you should contact your local county welfare office.

Food Stamps

SSI recipients in California are *not eligible* for food stamps because the state includes extra money in the amount it adds to the federal SSI payment instead of issuing food stamps.

However, you may be able to receive food stamps:

- while your SSI benefit application is pending;
- if your application for SSI benefits is denied; or
- if you move to another state.

For more information about food stamps, contact your local county welfare office.

Additional State And County Programs

Additional services and special payments may be available to SSI recipients through their local county welfare offices. These include:

- special allowance for assistance dogs for individuals who are blind or have a disability;
- in-home supportive services; and
- protective services.

For more information on these payments and services, contact your local county welfare office.

SSI Payments

The amounts below include both federal and state money. Not all SSI recipients receive the maximum payment amounts. Payments may be lower if you have other income. You can get more information about payment levels and how income affects them from your local office.

Additional state payments may be available to eligible aged or disabled individuals who don't live where they can cook or store food. Also, people who have adequate cooking facilities but are unable to cook for themselves may be eligible for the allowance through in-home supportive services from the county welfare department. Your Social Security office can explain these provisions to you.

For More Information

Check our website at www.ssa.gov for answers to many of the questions you may have and for other Social Security services you may need. You can order publications and forms, use our online Retirement and Benefits Planners, request to receive *eNews*, our free electronic newsletter, and even file for retirement online. Or you may call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213. We can answer specific questions by phone from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on business days and provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

We treat all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to a local office. We also want to make sure you receive accurate and courteous service, so a second Social Security representative monitors some incoming and outgoing calls.

Individuals	Aged	Disabled	Blind
Independent Living	\$757.00	\$757.00	\$819.00
Non-Medical Board and Care	925.00	925.00	925.00
Independent Living, No Cooking Facilities	836.00	836.00	
Household of Another	578.66	578.66	654.66
Disabled Minor Child		650.00	
Household of Another		460.66	
Couples Aged and/or Disabled			
Independent Living		1,344.00	
Non-Medical Board and Care		1,850.00	
Independent Living, No Cooking Facilities		1,502.00	
Household of Another		1,099.00	
Blind			
Independent Living		1,556.00	
Household of Another		1,312.00	
Blind Person with Aged or Disabled Spouse			
Independent Living		1,477.00	
Household of Another		1,231.00	

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